

GRACE HAPPENS HERE

IN STEWARDSHIP OF GOD’S KINGDOM- WEEK 2



FROM THE RECTOR

The God we know and worship is known to those around us by what we do in Jesus’s name. This is why we are God’s stewards. In the Biblical world a steward was the person who ran the household while the master was away. They acted as the master would act.

That is what stewardship is. We steward what is God’s. It is essential to understand that In Hebrew thought everything belonged to God. What we have and what we use seems to be ours because God is a spirit, but in truth everything we have has been given to us by God and belongs to God. One day it will be returned.



This idea flies in the face of our cultural assumptions about autonomy. But it also puts our lives in a true perspective. When we talk about tithing, it is out of gratitude for all that we have been given. And what we have been given is a teaching to take care of ourselves and those in our care, and for us also to take care of all of God’s creations.

When I think about what I don’t have, I often get stuck in a pretty petty, selfish place. But when I think about what I have been given, I am overwhelmed by the generosity of God and the provision of my life.

As we look at the resources of our common life, after all we are a people of Common Prayer, we begin to see the resources of our church very differently. What we have to take care of and reach out with are amazing. The circle of impact of this community is huge, and when we add our resources to those around us we find that we can do more for God than we could imagine.

Your time and money are truly multiplied when given into a community to do ministry. And there is always enough in our lives when we are responsible to God’s way. It is amazing to actually witness. Grace shows up.

The stories around this community about Grace showing up include building a church school in the Dominican Republic through a bequest and paying for school books for a nursing student. It is people showing up with communion after surgery and meals after the birth of a child. Grace shows up openhanded because we know that everything we have comes from the One who loves us.

We are the stewards of Grace. All of us, each of us, together. Thank God, it is what we are made for. we are made for this. daniel +

Morning Prayer – All Saints

MORNING PRAYER

O Lord our God, you have given us all things so that we might delight in light and serve you in all creation. As we think and pray about ourselves, our time, and our possessions; equip us to give outlandishly these things to further our faith, build your Kingdom and bring others to relationship with you, Creator, Redeemer, and the one who makes us Holy. Amen.

Psaln 24		
Read from the Bible or the Daily Office Lectionary, page 990, BCP		
Sunday	Nehemiah 5:1-19	Luke 12:22-31
Monday	Nehemiah 6:1-19	Matthew 13:36-43
Tuesday	Neh. 12:27-31a,42b-47	Matthew 13:44-52
Wednesday	Nehemiah 13:4-22	Matthew 13:53-58
Thursday	Ezra 7:1-26	Matthew 14:1-12
Friday	Ezra 7:27-28 & 8:21-36	Matthew 14:13-21
Saturday	Ezra 9:1-15	Matthew 14:22-36

Reflections: *Silent and Written Prayers*

The Church in our neighborhood and around the World
For those persecuted today for the sake of the Gospel
For our Nation and Leaders
The work we share in our Parish, area, and world
For our new Rector and Priest
Thanksgiving, praise, and concerns

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Collect

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living; that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.
Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God!



PRAYER FOR GRACE CHURCH

O gracious and loving God, fill our hearts with a burning desire to discern your will for our beloved community. Show us where you wish us to grow; reveal to us where we need strengthening; help us to shine as a people of faith, hope, love, joy, and generosity.

In particular, be with all our servant-leaders; comfort them with the awareness of your abiding presence, power, and protection. Inspire them to listen deeply to your guiding voice, that they may serve you and our parish with gratitude, patience, wisdom, commitment, and humility.

Let each of us remember to pray for, listen to, and take care of one another as we journey together. We each bring unique gifts to this community; grant that we may use our gifts to reveal your grace and glory as we serve your people—in our homes, in our church, in our parish, and in the world.

Transform us into fearless disciples, O God; pour out upon us abundant gifts of your Holy Spirit; give us knowledge of your will, and the desire, the strength, and the courage to shine as a holy beacon of your love in this beautiful corner of your creation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Evening Prayer – All Saints

EVENING PRAYER

Lord, You are in the midst of us and we are called by your Name: Do not forsake us, O Lord our God. Jeremiah 14:9, 22

Psaln 23		
Read from the Bible or the Daily Office Lectionary, page 990, BCP		
Sunday	Acts 20:7-12	Luke 12:22-31
Monday	Revelation 10:1-11	Matthew 13:36-43
Tuesday	Revelation 11:1-19	Matthew 13:44-52
Wednesday	Revelation 12:1-12	Matthew 13:53-58
Thursday	Revelation 14:1-13	Matthew 14:1-12
Friday	Revelation 15:1-8	Matthew 14:13-21
Saturday	Revelation 17:1-14	Matthew 14:22-36

Reflections: *Silent and Written Prayers*

Pray for your calling, your giving, and work as a disciple of Christ.

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Collect

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Jesus; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love’s sake. Amen.

The Antiphon

Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Let us bless the Lord.

The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us. Amen.

GRACE HAPPENS HERE IN STEWARDSHIP OF GOD'S KINGDOM: Week 2

Grace is a place where the Holy Spirit is alive and well, working through us and among us to accomplish Christ's work of redeeming the world. Despite the fact that our church has begun its transition between rectors, our ministries are thriving and our campus has never looked better.

We are at an important time in the life of our congregation—the transition from the announcement of Daniel's leaving to our new rector's arrival. By God's grace and provision, we can take advantage of this fertile time with a new commitment to ministry. As each of us gives generously of our time, talent, and financial resources, we will continue in Grace's long tradition of shining as a beacon of Christ's love in the Traverse City area and beyond.

Because of changes resulting from our transition, the draft budget for 2016 has not been finalized. The Vestry will vote on a balanced budget at their December meeting, and the amounts pledged will inform their decision-making. Though the numbers are from last year, this narrative budget will convey a real picture of what we're doing through the generosity of members and friends. One budget item that we'll need to include over the next two years is the cost of a rector search. When we brought Daniel on board 7 years ago, we spent \$20,000 for the search and expect that we will spend that much or more for this search.



How often have you said or heard the words, "Welcome to Grace"? Probably hundreds; maybe thousands. Because our ethic of welcome permeates all we do, we welcome not just in words but in deeds as well. We treat newcomers, visitors and each other with love and caring. During the week our staff and volunteers welcome all who cross our threshold. People who are struggling financially or spiritually are treated with dignity, respect and are given practical help. Many groups like AA and Oryana find a welcoming home here. With the challenges of our busy lifestyles, we need to do everything in our power to keep people up-to-date with parish activities. This includes our fabulous website which allows us to stay current and reach people inside and outside the

Grace community, the Gracevine weekly email updates, Grace Life bulletin inserts, and special mailings. Right before Easter we will welcome our interim rector who will help us to rediscover ourselves and strengthen our faith over the next 18 months. Our financial and spiritual resources welcome and nurture people of all generations, political persuasions, income levels, and sexual orientations to feel at home and know the fullness of God's love through our warm welcome.

The budget for the Welcome Ministry in 2015 was \$158,000.



Our house of God is first and foremost a house of worship and prayer. Although our four worship services each week vary in the degree of formality, all are based on the Book of Common Prayer. We hear the Word of God, give thanks for God's blessings, pray for others and ourselves, and celebrate Holy Communion around God's table. We hear inspiring and uplifting sermons that not only sustain us for the coming

week, but also challenge us to live out the Gospel in our daily lives. Our three choirs lead us in song with a variety of musical styles. Our staff and volunteers prepare the worship bulletins that guide us through our worship services. We welcome new Christians as they receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism—six new Christians are being baptized today! We share the joy of people when they are joined in marriage, and say goodbye to family and friends at funerals. We mark the seasons of the church year with special services. No matter what the occasion, worshiping in community binds us together, opens us to receive God's grace, and then sends us out to embody Christ's love to a hurting world.

² **The budget for the Worship Ministry in 2015 was \$142,000.**

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STUDY Preaching and teaching that grows our faith is a hallmark of Grace Church. No matter what your age, we have offerings that will make a difference in our relationship with God. Our small groups engender thoughtful study; friendships grow. Beginning in preschool, our young people participate in meaningful Sunday school programs that are tailored to their ages. Our dedicated staff and gifted volunteers make it happen.

The budget for our study ministry in 2015 was \$81,000.



Service is where the people of Grace really shine! We are known throughout the region for our care and service to the poor, hungry, and homeless people in our community—through the award-winning Jubilee House, Friday lunch program, our new food pantry, our hygiene pantry, Safe Harbor participation, and the discretionary fund. But we serve in so many other ways as well. Our love for one another grows when we realize how incomplete we are without each other. When we are sick, lonely, frightened, or grieving, we need to connect with others. As we bear each other's burdens, we strengthen one another and ourselves, too. Besides the informal

network of friends helping friends, we serve one another through hospital visits, prayer, Lay Eucharistic Visitors, pastoral support, our prayer shawl ministry, and our grief support group, to name a few. We also serve our diocese and the national Episcopal Church through our financial giving. Both invest a considerable portion of their budgets in ministry to the whole world.

The budget for our Service ministries in 2015 was \$252,000.

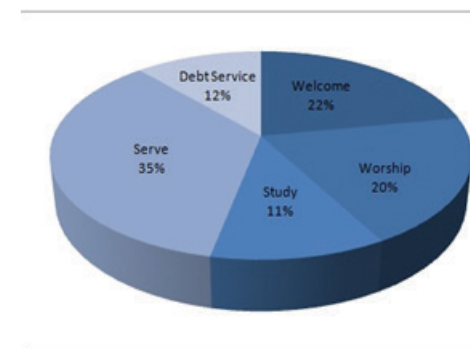


Debt Service When we built a new worship space to welcome more people and purchased the adjoining brown house to hold in trust for future generations, our original price tag was 2.6 million. We've made great progress and, as of the end of September 2014, we reduced our debt to \$463,000.

The proposed budget for our debt service in 2015 was \$83,000.

The total budget for the ministries of Grace in 2015 was \$717,000

Welcome	158,000
Worship	142,000
Study	82,000
Serve	252,000
Debt Service	83,000
Total	717,000
Less Other Income*	-172,000
Giving amount needed for a balanced budget	\$545,000



Where do the numbers come from? Some expenses, such as insurance and utilities, are divided evenly among our four core ministries. Others, such as staff compensation, are allocated according to the amount of time that is spent in duties that benefit each of the core ministries.

* Other Income: At Grace, because approximately 24 percent of our total expenses are offset through reimbursements, endowments, rent, and gifts, we will need \$544,534 in pledges and contributions from members and friends to achieve our goal of a balanced budget.

The budget for 2016 will be approved by the Vestry at their December meeting.